

Looking South

October 2014



A Message from the Mayor

Martinborough Community Centre Project Update

The Town Hall and Community Centre development in Martinborough will offer an exciting new community facility for the wider region, whilst upgrading the old Town Hall space will give South Wairarapa its own modernised public event venue.

Following the Annual Plan process South Wairarapa District Council agreed to a staged approach to the project, initially committing up to \$325,000 to develop a detailed design and quantity surveyor's costing. This stage will be complete by December 2014 when the council will decide whether to proceed to the next stage.



Following this decision and a rigorous selection process, architects Warren and Mahoney, together with project partners including landscape designers Wraight Associates, have won the contract to lead and manage the development.

The \$5.2 million dollar core project is positioned to have minimal impact on Council rates and needs to achieve a third of its cost from private funding from local businesses and individuals. The playground and landscaping works are additional to this core project and will be completed as funding allows. To date \$1.1 million has been pledged in contributions, illustrating the strong level of support for the project within the local community.

The central government election returned national with a significant majority requiring only one vote from its support partners to push through its previously signalled legislative program. This means two things that will affect all councils in New Zealand. We will see further amendments to the Local Government Act and major changes to the Resource Management Act. Both will impact upon the way we do business.

Previous changes to the Local Government Act were supposed to make us more efficient and accountable. What they actually achieved was a requirement for more reporting and more bureaucracy. It was also supposed to be easier for councils to amalgamate but so far no proposals are looking like being successful. Wairarapa is still waiting for an outcome from its application to reorganise its three councils. We've been told to expect a draft proposal in mid-October.

A major review of the Resource Management Act will be the first since its inception. Some say it's long overdue and that the Act is cumbersome.

Others fear for the environment if it's made easier to carry out development. I guess we'll just have to wait and see what the government proposes. I'm sure though that we won't have to wait long.



Adrienne Staples
The Mayor

Detailed information on the project, including the latest concept designs can be found at:

www.martinboroughcommunitycentre.co.nz

You can also follow the Facebook page for more regular updates:

Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/MartinboroughCommunityCentre>

Lisa Cornelissen, Communications Manager, Martinborough Community Centre Steering Group.

Funding recipients

Council administers both the Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund and the Creative Communities Scheme. The assessment committees have recently allocated funds as per the tables below. Visit the grants section on our webpage for more information: <http://www.swdc.govt.nz/grants>.

Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund Grants 2014/15	
Martinborough Golf Club	\$100
Martinborough Rugby Club (JAB)	\$790
Featherston Rugby Football Club	\$200
Featherston Hockey Club	\$150
Greytown JAB Rugby Club	\$980
Greytown Junior Football Club	\$1,040
Greytown Netball Club	\$460
Greytown Swimming Club	\$600
Greytown Cricket Club	\$460
Kia Kaha Junior Hockey Club	\$420
Kuranui College	\$2,890
Pirinoa School	\$250
Kahutara School	\$920

If your school or sports club has young people under age 19 and you didn't receive a grant this year then mention the Travel Fund to your club committee and get them to check out eligibility and apply in July 2015.

Creative Communities Scheme Grants September 2014	
Wairarapa Arts Festival Trust	\$1,500
Aaron Cross	\$900
Janie Nott	\$1,190
Greytown Arts Festival Committee	\$1,400
Wairarapa REAP	\$500
St Teresa's School	\$300
Featherston School	\$300
Tuturumuri School	\$300

If you have an arts project that you would like assistance with then the next Creative Communities Scheme funding round closes 27 February 2015.

Profiles of Councillors and Community Board Members

Viv Napier - Deputy Mayor and Councillor

I have been a councillor for 5 terms and Deputy Mayor for 3 terms. I have also been a Greytown Community Board member for all the time I have been on council. I am now the Chair of the SWDC District Licencing Committee.

I live in Greytown, I am married to Martin we have 3 adult kids and 3 2/3 grandchildren. I love to travel, cook, walk the dog and enjoy life in the Wairarapa. I worked as a relieving primary teacher for many years and have supported Martin as the administrator for the various businesses we have owned.

Being a councillor is a very interesting job, you meet a huge range of people, you make decisions which affect people's lives and you hope that the decisions you make will make the district a more prosperous, safer and attractive place to live.

Local Government touches everyone in so many ways, as a councillor you need knowledge of infrastructure, environmental concerns, community desires and needs, legislation, finances and most of all you need to be a really good listener. I have learnt "there are always two sides to a story" and you must "check the facts".



Lisa Cornelissen – Chair, Martinborough Community Board

Following a career in finance and marketing working for Unilever in London, I moved to Martinborough in 2005 with my husband Frank. We were impressed with the potential lifestyle, community spirit and proximity to Wellington.

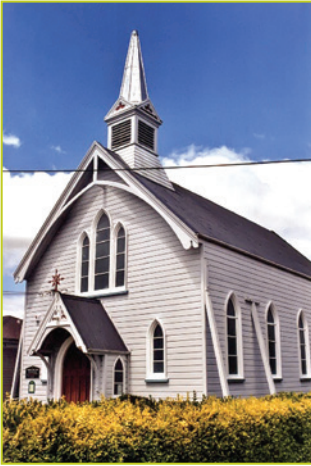


We submitted a successful expression of interest to lease the council campground and opened Martinborough Village Camping in November 2005. We have spent nine years developing the holiday park and recently joined the TOP 10 Marketing group to raise the profile of Martinborough amongst holiday park users. We are continuing to invest in and grow Martinborough TOP 10 Holiday Park and welcomed over 6,000 guests during the last 12 months.

Moving into the tourism industry has presented a number of opportunities to get involved. I am the current Chair of the Destination Wairarapa board as well as being President of the national Holiday Parks Association (HAPNZ).

On a personal level my interests include food & wine, gardening and reading. We have adopted two dogs, Woody and Rosie, both heading dog crosses. Claudia, the holiday park cat, adopted us back in 2008.

Heritage in our towns



Council, in partnership with property owners, interested citizens and community groups has looked at what makes our townships different and special places to live in.

The outcome of this process was the introduction of rules in the District Plan. These are designed to recognise and protect historic heritage values and to manage how buildings are altered or replaced.

Heritage precincts have been established in Greytown, Featherston and Martinborough. If a building is located in these precincts a resource consent must be obtained before any exterior changes are made to a building or a new building is constructed.

These resource consents are currently processed without charge. They often involve negotiations on the external appearance

of a building from a historic perspective, particularly in relation to how the changes to a building, or the design of a new building, sit in relation to nearby existing buildings.

The district plan contains explanations of what Council is seeking to achieve and what property owners can do to ensure their project can proceed quickly. A design guide is also available to help property owners understand what is needed. In addition Council staff are always available to discuss proposals before a resource consent is sought or while a consent is being processed.



Recycling in the Wind

In earlier publications you will have seen that we offer some advice on how to manage your recycling bins when challenged with the wind. One option is to weight the bin contents down with a heavy object or another is to hold off putting collection out on windy days with the hope the weather has improved next collection day.

No matter though how much care is taken to secure bins they are not designed to withstand severe wind gusts and consequently when they do take flight their final resting can often be some distance away from where they were left. So to improve the chances of having the bin returned we encourage you use a permanent marker and write your address on the bin. It's likely then the finder will pop it back over your fence.

However if you have lost a bin, replacement recycling bin can be purchased for \$17.50 each. These are available from the Council Offices in Martinborough or phone us to arrange collection from your nearest Library.

Advanced Landscape Architecture

Last winter Featherston was chosen as a case study for two consecutive papers for advanced Landscape Architecture students at Victoria University, in partnership with council.

The 20 students and their lecturers stayed in Featherston for ten days in July. Local and regional council, iwi, historians, interest groups and the community shared their knowledge of the region and the town during workshops, field trips and an old-fashioned community meet-and-greet.

The students return to Featherston in November to display their final designs for the town. The exhibition opens at ANZAC Hall on the evening of Tuesday, the 4th of November. This will be a community event and everyone is welcome to attend and discuss the final designs with the students. The designs will be on display for two weeks in Featherston before being displayed at the School of Architecture in Wellington for two weeks.

South Wairarapa District Council will be meeting with the students and there is an opportunity for Council to use some of the students' ideas to invigorate the town of Featherston.

Rebates 2014/15

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$605 for low income earners who were paying rates for the home in which they were living on 1 July 2014.

- ◆ Your rebate will be calculated based on your income, from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, rates and the number of dependants. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$24,250
- ◆ However if your income exceeds this amount you could still be entitled to a rebate depending on the total cost of your rates and number of dependants. You must provide proof of income from your income provider for ALL forms of income, including interest & dividends.
- ◆ Application forms are available from the Featherston and Greytown Libraries as well as the Council office.

Would you prefer to receive your rate demand by email?

We now have the facility to send rate demands by email. If you wish to receive your rate demand by email please email rates@swdc.govt.nz, and we will add your details to our database.

We encourage you to take up this option, some local authorities have up to 20% of rate demands delivered by email and at 80c per envelope the savings are considerable and of benefit to all.

Rates 2014/15 Instalment Two

Enclosed with this newsletter is the second rates assessment/invoice for the rating quarter 1 October – 30 December.

**The last day for payment is
20 November 2014**

**Please pay by this date to avoid
the 10% penalty.**

Further information about rates are included in "Part B" insert which accompanies this instalment.

Payment by direct credit is welcomed. Please help us to process these payments by including the property (RID) number for all properties you are paying.

Direct Debit Forms

We included with a previous Rates Notice a direct debit form hoping to encourage ratepayers to consider this method of rates payment, if not already signed up. Direct Debit is the cheapest way to pay your rates as we withdraw the funds directly from your bank account at the very last minute. That way you get the benefit of your funds for the longest possible time.

If you have not had the opportunity to do so but would like to pay by Direct Debit please complete

and return that form to us. If you have not kept the form we sent, just contact us by phone or email/post or drop in to one of our service centres to arrange to complete the required form.

We are very pleased with the response to our last notice about paying by Direct Debit with 200 additional ratepayers signed up. Our thanks to all those who pay by this method as administratively it is easier for us and means you not having to stress about paying on time.

GET IT SORTED

To South Wairarapa District Council, P.O. Box 6, Martinborough 5741

From:

Name

Surname

What's the Problem

Where Exactly?

Street, Road, Number